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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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for action
November 8, 1963 - Tuesday

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4

DATE 95-138

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Cuba

It is recommended that instructions be sent to Ambassador Stevenson along the following lines:

1. Great caution must be exercised in discussing matters of this kind with Castro and it would be undesirable for anyone known to be directly connected with the United States Government to have such conversations directly with him. On the other hand, knowledge of any contact being made must be restricted as narrowly as possible.
2. It may be useful both in our dealings with Castro and the USSR to secure as full a statement as possible of what Castro has in mind, although it must be done for the present without committing ourselves as to what we might be willing to do.
3. There is no great hurry as we assume that fundamental factors which led Castro to wish to talk will continue.


On basis these conclusions we suggest that Atwood see Lechuga in a week or so and indicate quite informally that, as Lechuga must be aware, two points which have much concerned the United States Government and people are the ties of the Cuban regime with the Soviet bloc and the activities of the Cuban regime in promoting violence and

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subversion of friendly governments in this hemisphere. He would find it difficult to secure serious consideration of Castro's proposal for discussions about United States-Cuban relations without having some idea about what Castro thinks he could do on these two issues which, while not the whole of the problem, certainly are key ones. If Dr. Lechuga should raise again the question of conversations with Vallejo, Atwood should say that, if Vallejo should come to New York for a task connected with the work of the Cuban UN Delegation, he thought it would be possible to arrange for an informal conversation between himself and Vallejo but he just did not think any further contact was possible until he had a clear idea of Castro's position on the two points mentioned.


Edwin M. Martin
Assistant Secretary

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